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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

TRAN, TRANG U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/418,822

Applicant(s)

ICHIFUJI ET AL.

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2003 and 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-18 and 20-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-18 and 20-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/844,431.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 22.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-19 and 21-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-18 and 20-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler et al. (US patent No. 5,585,838) in view of Alten et al. (US Patent No. 5,781,246).

In considering claim 12, Lawler et al. discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed an omission display controller which omits a part of a character information of a particular future program when a number of characters in the character information of the particular future program is larger than a number of characters which can be displayed in a first prescribed zone indicative of a prescribed time period, at least when the particular future program exceeds the prescribed time period of the first prescribed zone is met by the interactive controller 18 which is controlled the generation and display of the program time guide on the video display 20 and Fig. 3 which has the label 89 of the program tile 88 may be the program title, an abbreviation of the program title or any other indicator which identifies the corresponding program (Figs. 3 and 8,

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col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48), and 2) the claimed a full display controller which displays, in response to a predetermined selection, an entirety of the character information of the particular future program of the particular program in a second prescribed zone at least when the particular future program exceeds the prescribed time period of the first prescribed zone is met by the program summary panel 108 which may include a preview window 110, the full title of the program 112, a description of the program 114, and may also contain one or more information icons (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 10, lines 16-56 and col. 14, lines 23-48).

However, Lawler et al. explicitly does not disclose the claimed a program start time and a program end time of particular future program. Alten et al teach that in order to view programming information for later or earlier times, the user employs the left and right direction arrows 43B, as a consequence, **the system will display future program schedule information for the particular channel** previous selected by the up and down direction arrows, whether it is the channel currently being viewed or any other available channel, **the schedule information presented includes the name of the program and program start/stop time** (Fig. 12A, col. 13, line 62 to col. 15, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the **program start/stop time** as taught by Alten et al into Lawler et al's system in order to provide the user with more powerful and convenient operating environment while, at the same time, increasing the efficiency of navigation by the user through the guide.

In considering claim 13, the claimed further comprising a judge controller which judges whether a number of characters in the character information of the particular future program is larger than the number of characters which can be displayed in the first prescribed zone is met by the interactive controller 18 which is controlled the generation and display of the program time guide on the video display 20 and Fig. 3 which has the label 89 of the program tile 88 may be the program title, an abbreviation of the program title or any other indicator which identifies the corresponding program (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 14, the claimed further comprising a select controller which selects the character information of the particular future program from a plurality of character information of the programs is met by the interactive controller 18 which is controlled the generation and display of the program time guide on the video display 20 and Fig. 3 which has the label 89 of the program tile 88 may be the program title, an abbreviation of the program title or any other indicator which identifies the corresponding program (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 15, the claimed wherein the omission display controller adds an omission symbol to a remaining part of the character information of the particular future program from which a part was omitted when displaying the remaining part of the character information of the particular future program from which a part was omitted in the first prescribed zone is met by the omission symbol (...) of the abbreviation of the

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program title (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 20, the claimed wherein the character information of the particular program is a title of the particular program is met by the program title 88 (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 24, the claimed wherein the second prescribed zone does not overlap any part of the first prescribed zone is met by the program summary panel 108 which may include a preview window 110, the full title of the program 112, a description of the program 114, and may also contain one or more information icons (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 10, lines 16-56 and col. 14, lines 23-48) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 25, the claimed wherein the second prescribed zone is constantly displayed at a fixed position is met by the program summary panel 108 which may include a preview window 110, the full title of the program 112, a description of the program 114, and may also contain one or more information icons (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 10, lines 16-56 and col. 14, lines 23-48) of Lawler et al.

Claim 26 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 24.

Claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 12 and 25.

In considering claim 17, the claimed further comprising a judge controller which judges whether a background information block indicative of program time can be displayed in full in the first prescribed zone is met by as the focus frame 102 moves, it expands or shrinks in size to correspond to the fully visible portion of the designed program title (Fig. 3, col. 11, line 12 to col. 13, line 37) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 18, the claimed further comprising a select controller which selects a shape of the particular a background information block indicative of program time from a plurality of shapes of background information blocks indicative of program time is met by as the focus frame 102 moves, it expands or shrinks in size to correspond to the fully visible portion of the designed program title (Fig. 3, col. 11, line 12 to col. 13, line 37) of Lawler et al.

Claim 21 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 12 and 25.

Claims 22-23 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 17-18, respectively.

Claim 27 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 24.

In considering claim 28, the claimed wherein the full display controller further displays, in response to the predetermined selection, an entirety of a character information of a program associated with the changed background information block in a third prescribed zone outside the second prescribed zone; wherein the second prescribed zone is constantly displayed at a first fixed position; and wherein the third prescribed zone is constantly displayed at a second fixed position different from the first fixed position is met by the display which include a program grid 80 (first prescribed zone), a display date panel 104 (second prescribed zone), a current date and time panel 106 and a program summary panel 108 (third prescribed zone) (Fig. 3, col. 9, line 47 to col. 10, line 56) of Lawler et al.

In considering claim 29, the claimed wherein neither the second prescribed zone nor the third prescribed zone overlaps any part of the first prescribed zone is met by the

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display which include a program grid 80 (first prescribed zone), a display date panel 104 (second prescribed zone), a current date and time panel 106 and a program summary panel 108 (third prescribed zone) (Fig. 3, col. 9, line 47 to col. 10, line 56) of Lawler et al.

Claim 30 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 24.

Claim 31 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 28.

Claim 32 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 29.

Claim 33 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 12.

Claim 34 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 12.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Trang U. Tran** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0090**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W. Miller**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4795**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

TT TT
September 30, 2003


MICHAEL H. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER